

Residential Security

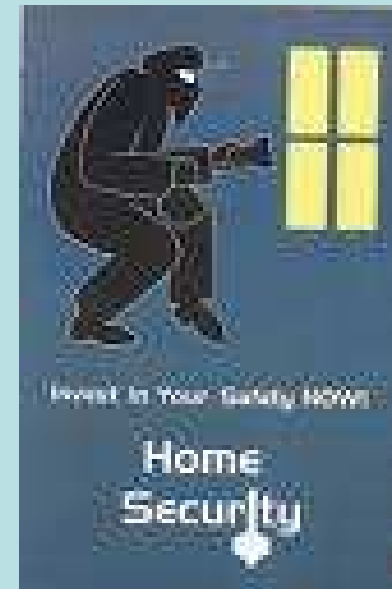


West Des Moines Police Department
Community Education/Outreach Unit

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Burglaries

- Residential burglary is one the most common of major criminal offense
- Burglaries are reported every 12 seconds in the U.S.
- At least 1/6 homes in the U.S were burglarized in 2001
- Most (62.4%) of residential burglaries in 2005 for which time of occurrence was known took place during the day, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.



Burglaries

- If reported it would be more like $\frac{1}{4}$
- The average dollar loss per burglary offense in 2005 was \$1,725.
- Of all burglary offenses in 2005, 65.8 percent were of residential structures.
- Among burglaries of nonresidential structures when time of occurrence was known, 58.0 percent occurred at night

Burglary

- According to Bureau of Justice burglary is defined as “unlawful or forcible entry or attempted entry of a residence:
- Illegal entry may be made by force, such as breaking a window or slashing a screen
- Without force by entering through an unlocked door or an open window



Burglary

- 85% are carried out by youthful amateurs
- Mostly males under 25 years of age, normal intelligence, with a record of juvenile delinquency and a minimum of education.
- Burglars devote relatively little time to advance planning
- Are a case of an opportunity seen and seized.

Burglaries

- **Consider these facts:**
In 81% of residential burglaries occur through the front door.
- **Houses on a corner suffer 40% of all break-ins.** And you're more likely to be burglarized if you live **close to a major thoroughfare**, on a **cul-de-sac** or on a **dead-end street**.
- If you **just moved into your home** and did not change your locks, you have no way of knowing who has a copy of your keys.
- Thieves often **force the door in** or **pry it open**. They also resort to **physically attacking the lock** by drilling, hammering, wrenching or sawing the bolt.



Burglaries

- A study in Connecticut showed that 12% occurred through an “UNLOCKED” door.
- 41% of alarmed homes did not have the alarm turned on
- A survey in Pennsylvania showed that burglars
 - 34% entered through the front door
 - 23% through a first-floor window
 - 22% through the back door
 - 9% through the garage
 - 4% through the basement
 - 2% through a storage area
 - 2% through second floor access

Locks & Keys

- Keep keys out of circulation.
- Just think of all the people who have used your keys, from housekeepers to childcare providers to valet parking attendants.
- Only give keys to a few trusted people and be wary of giving out keys to your home.
- Have you ever been asked for identification when having a key duplicated?

Locks & Keys

- Buy Medeco High Security locks with specialized keys that require your authorization to make copies and that can only be duplicated by a professional locksmith.
- Change all locks when moving into a new house or apartment.
- Do not leave spare keys in obvious places, such as under flower pots or welcome mats.

Locks & Keys

- Do not have identifying tags on your key ring that provide thieves with personal information such as your name and address.
- Install a double cylinder lock on doors located near windows to prevent thieves from breaking the window and turning the latch.
- A special Captive Thumbturn Deadbolt has a removable thumbturn key that provides easy exit for your family in emergencies. When the thumbturn is removed, it also provides additional burglary protection when you are away from home.

Doors & Windows

- When protecting your home from break-ins, check the easiest points of entry: doors and windows.
 - Choose solid wood or steel doors. Hollow wood doors can easily be kicked in.
 - Install doors with the hinges on the inside of the door so hinges cannot be easily removed.
 - Do not leave gaps around the door frame that would make doors vulnerable to prying.



Doors & Windows

- Use vertical bolts on sliding doors so burglars cannot gain entry by lifting them off the track. Reinforce security by placing a metal or solid wood rod on the inside track.
- Watch the electric garage door close completely when you come and go so that someone cannot sneak under as it closes.
- Make sure back doors and the door that connects your garage to your home are solid and secured with high security deadbolt locks.

Door & Windows

- Lock your pet door when you are away. Thieves can convince children to crawl through it and open the door.
- Make sure your windows can be securely locked.
- Double-hung windows (the ones that slide up and down) are fairly safe, particularly if they have locks mounted on the sides or in the corners.

Landscaping & Lights

- When planning your landscaping, think like thieves and know your enemy.
 - Remove trees or branches of trees close to your home that give burglars access to upper levels.
 - Make it difficult for them to navigate through your yard and approach entry points. Plant low thorny bushes below your windows.



- Trim your trees and shrubbery; don't give them somewhere to hide.
- Keep your lawn well maintained so that they know that the house is attended to and constantly inhabited



Landscaping & Lights

- In addition to keeping your yard neatly trimmed and well cared for, keep it well lighted. Burglars prefer to operate in the dark.
- Install porch lights and be attentive to burned out bulbs.
- Install motion sensitive lights; they will not only make you feel safer when approaching your home after dark, but they will also deter criminals who don't want to be seen.
- Leave a light on, preferably on each floor, when you go out in the evening.



What is going on in your Neighborhood?

- Be aware of the physical details, people and happenings in your neighborhood.
 - When moving, call the police and find out the frequency of burglaries in your new neighborhood and how they have occurred, so you know how to protect yourself.
 - Participate in a neighborhood watch program. Post signs to let potential housebreakers know that your neighborhood is aware of their threat and that you are collectively willing to protect yourselves. A united front makes your neighborhood less vulnerable.

Neighborhoods

- Do not let strangers into your home, even if they offer free inspections of roof, furnace or air conditioners. If you are not sure about a worker, even after asking for identification, call the company.
- Tell your neighbors about suspicious strangers, including a description of suspects and their actions.
- Do not go in the house if you suspect there is a stranger inside. Use the neighbors' phone or your wireless phone to call the police immediately.



Vacations

- When leaving for vacation, take steps to secure your home while you are away.
 - Remove the thumbturn from your Captive Thumbturn Deadbolt so that a thief can't break a window and unlock a door to get in your home.
 - Do not be overly communicative about your vacation schedule or even your day-to-day schedule.
 - Do not tell people you aren't home on the outgoing message of your answering machine/voicemail.

Vacations

- Put timers on indoor lights, televisions and radios; specifically, look for timers with random patterns that suggest movement and activity in the house.
- Erase the messages on your answering machine often, so it isn't obvious you are out of town.
- Secure all locks on doors and windows, including garage and pet doors.
- Use new, quality, long-lasting light bulbs.
- Arrange to have your yard maintained, including having your driveway shoveled or lawn mowed.
- Ask a trusted neighbor or friend to pick up your mail and check the inside and outside of your house every day.
- Do not close all shades and curtains; it will be too obvious that you are away.

Smart Tips

- Be proactive about your home security.
 - Do not display valuables to the outside world.
 - Conduct a security inspection.
 - Make a list of trouble spots and do what you can to correct them.
 - Look for ways to secure all entrances and openings.

Smart Tips

- Dogs really are a deterrent. Not only do they often frighten intruders, they also warn you.
- Do not provide access to your keys. For example, valet attendants can make copies of standard keys within minutes, and they have access to your address on your registration.
- Install good quality locks that provide patented protection against unauthorized duplication.

